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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - JAKARTA INTERNATIONAL RELIEF SUMMIT MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS
PARIS - FRIDAY, JANUARY 07, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#). JAKARTA INTERNATIONAL RELIEF SUMMIT
- [2](#). MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS
- [3](#). TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES AN OP-ED BY SECRETARY POWELL TITLED "DEVELOPMENT AID TO POOR COUNTRIES: A MORAL OBLIGATION."

THE ELECTIONS IN PALESTINE, THE JAKARTA CONFERENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS OTHER STORIES ARE FEATURED ON TODAY'S FRONT PAGES. FOR LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION JAKARTA IS "THE AID SUMMIT" WHILE RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS HEADLINES "THE UN WILL OVERSEE RELIEF PLAN." RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO HEADLINES "DONOR NATIONS WILL HAVE TO HONOR THEIR PLEDGES." WHILE PATRICK SABATIER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION WRITES, ABOUT THE COMPETITION BETWEEN NATIONS, THAT "THE RACE FOR PLEDGES IS BETTER THAN THE ARMS RACE," IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO MICHEL SCHIFRES EMPHASIZES THE "GROWING POLITICAL ROLE OF BOTH CHINA AND INDIA" IN THE REGIONAL RELIEF EFFORT. (SEE PART C)

CATHOLIC LA CROIX AND COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE DEVOTE THEIR LEAD TO THE ELECTIONS IN PALESTINE. FOR BRUNO FRAPPAT OF LA CROIX, "THE ELECTIONS, ALONG WITH THE NEW SHARON-PERES GOVERNMENT AND ARAFAT'S DEATH, PRESENT A NEW WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THE REGION." (SEE PART C)

PRESIDENT CHIRAC PRESENTED HIS WISHES TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON THURSDAY. HIS REMARKS ON IMPROVING TRANSATLANTIC TIES ARE ANALYZED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION. VERONIQUE SOULE EXPLAINS THAT "WASHINGTON'S MULTILATERALISM, AS SHOWN IN ITS TURNING TO THE UN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE IRAQI WAR, DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN A STEP TOWARDS MULTILATERALISM IN GENERAL, AND ESPECIALLY NOT IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT." SHE QUOTES DOMINIQUE MOISI OF IFRI (THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS): "FORCED BY REALITIES, WASHINGTON HAS HAD TO INITIATE A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH EUROPE OVER IRAQ, THE MIDDLE EAST AND IRAN. BUT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH FRANCE IS LESS CERTAIN." MOISI PENS HIS OWN COLUMN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS. (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:
JAKARTA INTERNATIONAL RELIEF SUMMIT

"APOCALYPSES"

PATRICK SABATIER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (01/07): "PUBLIC OPINION IS WELL AWARE OF THE POLITICAL PUBLICITY APPROACH THAT LIES BEHIND THE BIG SHOW IN JAKARTA. BUT THE RACE FOR PLEDGES IS BETTER THAN THE ARMS RACE. THE MOST POSITIVE ELEMENT OF THE SUMMIT WAS THE FACT THAT THE U.S. GAVE UP ON ITS IDEA TO ROB THE UN OF ITS NATURAL ROLE. BUT THE QUANTITY OF MONEY PLEDGED DOES NOT GUARANTEE EFFECTIVENESS. AID MUST BE USED INTELLIGENTLY, AVOIDING WASTE AND CORRUPTION, TWO FREQUENT ILLS FOUND WHEN DEALING WITH DISASTER AND IN THESE REGIONS. OTHERWISE THE APOCALYPSE OF THE TSUNAMI COULD BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER APOCALYPSES."

"CHINA'S OTHER AWAKENING"

MICHEL SCHIFRES IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (01/07): "THE RACE TO GIVE TO THE TSUNAMI SURVIVORS HAS ALSO LED MANY NATIONS TO CLARIFY THEIR POLITICAL CHOICES AND ORIENTATION. ONE EXAMPLE IS CHINA. FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN THE WAKE OF A WORLDWIDE TRAGEDY, CHINA HAS REACTED LIKE ANY OTHER WESTERN NATION AND ACTED LIKE ANY OTHER DEVELOPED NATION, THUS REVEALING ITS ASPIRATION TO BECOME PART OF THE CONCERT OF NATIONS. CHINA, LIKE INDIA, IS PROVING ITS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FACE OF THE DISASTER, AND ITS DESIRE NOT TO LET THE WEST AND JAPAN HAVE A FREE HAND. BEYOND ITS SINCERE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN, CHINA'S POLITICAL AMBITION IS OBVIOUS."
MIDDLE EAST - PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS
"A TIME FOR HOPE"

BRUNO FRAPPAT IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (01/07): "IF MAHMUD ABBAS WINS THE ELECTION. HIS CHALLENGES WILL BE ENORMOUS, BECAUSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOTHING IS EVER SIMPLE. HE WILL NEED TO EXERCISE VERY STRONG AUTHORITY OVER THE PALESTINIANS TO STOP THOSE WHO MIGHT STILL BE TEMPTED BY THE USE OF TERROR. THE OTHER CHALLENGE IS A POLITICAL ONE AND HAS ITS ROOTS IN ISRAEL. ABBAS MUST PROVE TO THE SHARON-PERES GOVERNMENT THAT HE IS THE CREDIBLE PARTNER AND VIABLE INTERLOCUTOR THAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN CALLING FOR. WE ARE ON THE EVE OF SEEING ONE OF THOSE 'WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY' THAT HISTORY SO SELDOM OFFERS."

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

"CHIRAC'S SHEEP'S EYES TOWARDS THE U.S."
VERONIQUE SOULE IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (01/07): "THE DAYS ARE LONG GONE WHEN CHIRAC SPOKE OF THE 'ILLEGALITY' OF THE WAR IN IRAQ. HE IS NOW SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF 'THE VITALITY OF THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.' TO UNDERSCORE THIS DESIRE FOR A RAPPROCHEMENT, CHIRAC WILL GO TO WASHINGTON TOWARDS THE END OF FEBRUARY. AFTER PRESIDENT BUSH TRAVELS TO EUROPE. THIS IS A GESTURE WHICH PARIS READS AS A SIGN OF WASHINGTON'S MORE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE TOWARDS EUROPE AND ITS DESIRE TO COLLABORATE FURTHER IN ORDER TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL CRISES. SINCE THE IRAQI DISASTER, THE AMERICANS HAVE TURNED TO THE UN FOR SUPPORT, SOMETHING THAT FRANCE HAS INTERPRETED AS THE BEGINNING OF A CONVERSION TO MULTILATERALISM. AND FRANCE HAS TONED DOWN ITS CRITICISM OF WASHINGTON. BUT DOMINIQUE MOISI OF IFRI BELIEVES THAT WHEN 'PARIS TAKES A FEW STEPS FORWARD, WASHINGTON TAKES A FEW BACK.' NOTHING PROVES THAT WASHINGTON, WHICH HAS HAD TO GIVE IN TO THE UN IN JAKARTA, IS REALLY READY TO CONVERT TO MULTILATERALISM, IN PARTICULAR WHEN IT COMES TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT."

"BUSH'S INTEREST IN BISMARCK"
DOMINIQUE MOISI OF IFRI IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS (01/07): "RELIABLE SOURCES IN WASHINGTON INDICATE THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAS RECENTLY READ, AND WITH MUCH INTEREST, JOHN GADDIS'S BOOK 'SURPRISE, SECURITY AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.' SHOULD AMERICA'S ALLIES BE CONCERNED OR REASSURED ABOUT THIS SURPRISING INTEREST FOR BISMARCK'S DIPLOMACY? BISMARCK'S CHANGE FROM REVOLUTIONARY DIPLOMAT TO CONSERVATIVE MAY SUGGEST AN EVOLUTION IN THE U.S. DURING BUSH'S SECOND TERM IN OFFICE. THE U.S. COULD BECOME A 'HYBRID:' MORE RADICAL ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT. AND MORE MODERATE WHEN IT COMES TO FOREIGN POLICY. IN SPITE OF HIS LACK OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE UN OR HIS NOTED LACK OF INTEREST FOR HIS ALLIES, PRESIDENT BUSH WILL NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE ALLIES MORE THAN HE DID DURING HIS FIRST TERM. IF CONDOLEEZZA RICE HAD TO REPEAT HER FAMOUS REMARKS, TODAY SHE WOULD PROBABLY SAY 'LET'S KEEP RUSSIA IN MIND, ACCEPT GERMANY AND IGNORE FRANCE.' IN SPITE OF FRANCE'S DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, THE U.S. IS NOT YET READY TO COMPLETELY FORGET THE PAST AND LOOK ON PARIS AS A PARTNER WORTHY OF TRUST." LEACH